

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, GY, CU, RQ

SUBJECT: WORLD PEACE COUNCIL MISSION SEEKS GUYANESE SUPPORT FOR
PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

1. SUMMARY: THREE-MAN DELEGATION SPENT FIVE DAYS(JULY 16-21)
IN GUYANA WITHOUT SEEING GOG OFFICIALS DELEGATION INVITED PARTI-
CIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN
HAVANA SEPT 5-7 TO PROMOTE PUERTO RICANINDEPENDENCE VIA UNITED
NATIONS ACTION. NEW GOG FONMIN WILLS TOLD AMBASSADOR GOG WILL CON-
TINUE HANDS-OFF POLICY RE PUERTO RICO. END SUMMARY.

2. WORLD PEACE COUNCIL DELEGATION CONSISTED OF PEDRO ALBIZU MEUSES
(PUERTO RICO), DR. RAFAEL PEDRAZA (CUBA) AND FRANCIS MELI (SOUTH
AFRICA). THEY WERE MET AT AIRPORT BY GUYANA PEACE COUNCIL, AN
AUXILIARY OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP),
WHOSE MIRROR NEWSPAPER FIRST ANNOUNCED VISIT. SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES
IN BOTH GOVT-OWNED PAPERS INDICATED MISSION MET WITH TRADE UNION
CONGRESS, GUYANA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND VICE CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY
OF GUYANA (DR. DENNIS IRVINE). A MEETING TO FORM A QUOTE NATIONAL
SUPPORT COMMITTEE UNQUOTE WAS REPORTED HELD AT HEADQUARTERS OF
CLERICAL WORKERS UNION.

3. PRESS ARTICLES NOTED DELEGATION VISIT HERE PROMPTED BY GUYANA'S
SEAT ON SECURITY COUNCIL AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH OTHER CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES. DELEGATION HOPED TO HAVE WIDE PARTICIPATION IN HAVANA
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MEETING WHICH EXPECTED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION CALLING ON UN TO REQUIRE

USG TO REPORT ON CUBA THROUGH DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE, AND WOULD ALSO SEEK TO HAVE FACT-FINDING COMMISSION SENT TO ISLAND. DELEGATION UNDERLINED GUYANA'S SOLIDARITY WITH OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF WORLD AND INTEREST IN PROMOTING CLOSER TIES WITH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES. SAID PUERTO RICO NEEDED TO DEVELOP QUOTE OWN IDENTITY UNQUOTE AND WITH INDEPENDENCE WOULD ESTABLISH DIRECT TRADE LINKS WITH GUYANA. DELEGATION ALLEGED PUERTO RICANS SUFFER ECONOMIC DEPRESSION BECAUSE OF DEPENDENCE ON US ECONOMY, AND WPC CONCERNED THAT PUERTO RICO WAS QUOTE POTENTIAL SOURCE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST SURROUNDING COUNTRIES UNQUOTE. OTHER THEMES WERE: STERILIZATION FOR PUERTO RICAN WOMEN, REPATRIATION OF PROFITS BY US-OWNED COMPANIES AND MASS MIGRATION.

4. WHEN I SAW FONMIN FRED WILLS JULY 21 ON OTHER MATTERS, I ALLUDED TO PUBLICITY ON VISIT OF WPC DELEGATION, WILLS IMMEDIATELY SAID HE HAD MADE HIMSELF UNAVAILABLE TO DELEGATION BECAUSE HE REALIZED THIS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN CONTINUING EFFORT TO EMBARRASS USG. (THIS IMPLIES DELEGATION GOT SAME TREATMENT ELSEWHERE IN GOG.) FACTS ABOUT PUERTO RICO, WILLS SAID, ARE WELL KNOWN, I.E.; THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT SELF-DETERMINATION OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION. WILLS SAID HE HAD CAUTIONED PM BURNHAM NOT TO ALLOW CUBANS TO DRAG HIM INTO PUERTO RICAN QUESTION DURING BURNHAM'S RECENT VISIT TO CUBA, AND HE KNEW RAMPHAL HAD GIVEN SIMILAR ADVICE.

5. I REMARKED THAT IN THE LIGHT OF WILL'S STATEMENT I WAS PUZZLED BY FACT THAT KIT NASCIMENTO MINISTER OF STATE IN PM'S OFFICE) HAD MADE TOTALLY GRATUITOUS AND UNFRIENDLY REMARK ABOUT PUERTO RICO IN ADDRESS JULY 18 TO CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. NASCIMENTO, I SAID, HAD CHARACTERIZED PUERTO RICO AS EXAMPLE OF SQUALOR AND SUFFERING WHICH WAS INEVITABLE COROLLARY OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT REMARK WAS APPARENTLY AD-LIBBED SINCE IT DID NOT APPEAR IN PRESS REPORTS OF HIS TALK. I ADDED IT WAS PARTICULARLY UNCALLED FOR IN AUDIENCE WHICH COMPOSED OF CARIBBEAN BUSINESSMEN, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM VENEZUELA AND AN OBSERVER DELEGATE FROM PUERTO RICO.

6. WILLS SAID ONLY EXPLANATION HE COULD OFFER IS THAT NASCIMENTO IS PRONE TO EXAGGERATED RHETORIC, SINCE HE LACKS POLITICAL BASE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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IS A CONVERT TO GOVT PARTY FROM FORMER MIDDLE-CLASS BUSINESS ORIENTED UNITED FORCE. BESIDES, HE SAID, NASCIMENTO IS ANGLING FOR APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO HAVANA UNDER GOG-GOC AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT EMBASSIES.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION WILLS COMMENTED THAT PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN, WHO RECENTLY ATTENDED MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNISTS PARTIS IN HAVANA, WAS TOLD QUITE BLUNTLY BY CASTRO THAT HE SHOULD

DESIST FROM TOTAL OPPOSITION TO BURNHAM GOVT SINCE CASTRO NOW
REGARDS BURNHAM AS TRUE SOCIALIST. WILLS SAID THIS EXPLAINS RECENT
GESTURES BY JAGAN SUCH AS GREETING BURNHAM AT COOPERATIVE COLLEGE
ANNIVERSARY. WILLS ADDED THAT PPP BACK-STOPPING OF WPC DELEGATION
WAS JUST ANOTHER CHORE LAID ON PPP BY CASTRO.

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